

a mounting opening portion disposed at said base end and comprising an inner rim; and

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a crimped portion disposed along said inner rim comprising:

a flange-like shape;

an outer step; and

an inner step thinner than said outer step; and

a closing member adapted to close said mounting opening portion and applying a preliminary load to said ball head portion, comprising an outer rim, wherein said inner rim receives and holds said outer rim of said closing member.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please delete the present ABSTRACT in favor of the abstract attached hereto as Page A-1.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above identified application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.